

WIG

- Cherish thy hasten'd *widowhood* with the gold
Of matrimonial treason: so farewell. *Milton.*
2. Estate settled on a widow. Not in use.
For that dowry, I'll assure her of
Her *widowhood*, be it that she survives me,
In all my lands. *Shakef. Taming of the Shrew.*
WIDOWHUNTER. *n. f.* [*widow* and *hunter*.] One who courts
widows for a jointure.
The *widowhunters* about town often afford them great di-
version. *Addison's Spectator.*
WIDOWMAKER. *n. f.* [*widow* and *maker*.] One who deprives
women of their husbands.
It grieves my soul
That I must draw this metal from my side
To be a *widowmaker*. *Shakef. King John.*
WIDOW-WAIL. *n. f.* [*widow* and *wail*.] A plant.
It hath a flower consisting of one leaf, which is deeply di-
vided into three parts: the cup of the flower is also of one
leaf, divided into three segments; the fruit consists of three
hard berries closely joined together; in each of which is con-
tained one oblong seed; to which may be added, it hath the
appearance of a shrub, and the leaves are small and oblong.
Miller.
WIDTH. *n. f.* [from *wide*.] Breadth; wideness. A low word.
For the *width* of the mortels gage this side, then for the
tenant, gage on that end of the quarter you intend the tenant
shall be made. *Moxon.*
Let thy vines in intervals be set,
Indulge their *width*, and add a roomy space,
That their extremest lines may scarce embrace. *Dryden.*
To **WIELD** *v. a.* [pealsan, Saxon; to manage in the hand.]
To use with full command, as a thing not too heavy for the
holder.
Bale Hungarian wight, wilt thou the spigot *wield*. *Shakef.*
His looks are full of peaceful majesty,
His head by nature fram'd to wear a crown,
His hand to *wield* a scepter, and himself
Likely in time to bless a regal throne. *Shakef.peare.*
There is that hand bolden'd to blood and war,
That must the sword in wondrous actions *wield*. *Daniel.*
They are in the dark before they are aware; and then they
make a noise only with terms; which, like too heavy weap-
ons that they cannot *wield*, carry their strokes beyond their
aim. *Digby on Bodies.*
The least of whom could *wield*
These elements, and arm him with the force
Of all their regions. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Part *wield* their arms, part curb the foaming steed. *Milton.*
If Rome's great senate could not *wield* that sword,
Which of the conquer'd world had made them lord;
What hope had ours, while yet their pow'r was new,
To rule victorious armies, but by you?
He worthiest, after him, his sword to *wield*,
Or wear his armour, or sustain his shield. *Dryden.*
WIELDY. *adj.* [from *wield*.] Manageable.
WIERY. *adj.* [from *wire*.]
1. Made of wire: it were better written *wiry*.
Your gown going off, such beauteous state reveals,
As when through flow'ry meads th' hill's shadow steals;
Off with that *wiery* coronet, and shew
The hairy diadem which on your head doth grow. *Donne.*
2. Drawn into wire.
Polymnia shall be drawn with her hair hanging loose about
her shoulders, resembling *wiery* gold. *Peacham on Drawing.*
3. [From *pier*, a pool.] Wet; wearish; moist. Obsolete.
Where but by chance a silver drop hath fall'n,
Ev'n to that drop ten thousand *wiery* friends
Do glew themselves in sociable grief. *Shakef.peare.*
WIFE. *n. f.* Plural *wives* [pif, Saxon; *wiff*, Dutch.]
A woman that has a husband.
Your claim, fair sister,
I bar it in the interest of my *wife*. *Shakef.peare's King Lear.*
There's no bottom, none
In my voluptuousness: your *wives*, your daughters,
Your matrons and your maids could not fill up
The cistern of my lust. *Shakef.peare's Macbeth.*
Why saidst thou, she is my sister? so I might have taken
her to me to *wife*. *Gen. xii. 19.*
The *wife*, where danger or dishonour lurks,
Safest and seemliest by her husband stays. *Milton.*
The *wife* her husband murders, he the *wife*. *Dryden.*
Fond of his friend, and civil to his *wife*. *Pope.*
2. It is used for a woman of low employment.
Strawberry *wives* lay two or three great strawberries at the
mouth of their pot, and all the rest are little ones. *Bacon.*
WIG. *n. f.* *Wig* being a termination in the names of men signifies
war, or else a hero, from *piga*, a word of that signification.
Gibson's Camden.
WIG. *n. f.* [Contracted from *periwig*.]
1. False hair worn on the head.
Triumphing Tories and desponding Whigs
Forget their feuds, and join to save their *wigs*. *Swift.*

WIL

2. A sort of cake.
WIGHT. *n. f.* [pif, Saxon.] A person; a being. *Asiworth.*
Behrew the witch! with venomous *wights* the slays.
Tediuous as hell; but flies the grasp of love. *Obsolete.*
With wings more momentary swift than thought. *Shakef.*
This world below did need one *wight*, more than this world.
Which might thereof distinguish every part. *Daniel.*
This meaner *wights*, of trust and credit bare,
Not so respected, could not look effect. *Daniel.*
A *wight* he was, whose very sight would awe
Entitle him mirror of knighthood. *Hudibras.*
The water flies all taste of living *wight*. *Milton.*
How couldst thou suffer thy devoted knight,
On thy own day, to fall by foe oppress'd? *Dryden.*
The *wight* of all the world who lov'd thee best,
His station he yielded up to a *wight* as disagreeable as him-
self. *Addison's Guardian.*
WIGHTLY. *adj.* Swift; nimble. Out of use.
He was so wimple and so *wightly* swift. *Shakef.peare's Pastoral.*
From bough to bough he leaped lights. *Shakef.peare's Pastoral.*
And oft the pumies latched. *Shakef.peare's Pastoral.*
WIGHTLY. *adv.* [from *wight*.] Swiftly; nimbly.
Her was her, while it was day-light, *Shakef.peare's Pastoral.*
But now her is a most wretched *wight*. *Shakef.peare's Pastoral.*
For day that was is *wightly* past. *Shakef.peare's Pastoral.*
And now at last the night doth last. *Shakef.peare's Pastoral.*
WIGHT. *n. f.* An initial in the names of men, signifies strong; nimble;
lusty; being purely Saxon. *Gibson's Camden.*
WILD. *adj.* [pif, Saxon; *wild*, Dutch.]
1. Not tame; not domestic.
For I am he am born to tame you, Kate,
And bring you from a *wild* cat to a kate,
Conformable as other household kates. *Shakef.peare.*
Winter's not gone yet, if the *wild* geese fly that way. *Shak.*
All beasts of the earth since *wild*. *Milton.*
2. Propagated by nature; not cultivated.
Whatsoever will make a *wild* tree a garden tree, will make
a garden tree to have less core or stone. *Bacon's Natural History.*
Goose grafs or *wild* tanfy is a weed that strong clays are ve-
ry subject to. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
The *wild* bee breeds in the stocks of old willows, in which
they first bore a canal, and furnish afterwards with hangings,
made of rose leaves: and to finish their work divide the whole
into several rooms or cells. *Grew's Microscopium.*
3. Defart; uninhabited.
The wild beast where he wons in forest *wild*. *Milton.*
4. Savage; uncivilized.
Affairs that walk,
As they say spirits do, at midnight, have
In them a *wilder* nature, than the business
That seeks dispatch by day. *Shakef.peare's Henry VIII.*
Though the inundation destroyed man and beast generally,
yet some few *wild* inhabitants of the woods escaped. *Bacon.*
When they might not converse with any civil men without
peril of their lives, whither should they fly but into the woods
and mountains, and there live in a *wild* and barbarous man-
ner. *Daniel on Ireland.*
May those already curst Essexian plains,
Where hasty death and pining sickness reigns,
Prove as a desert, and none there make stay;
But savage beasts, or men as *wild* as they. *Waller.*
5. Turbulent; tempestuous; irregular.
His passions and his virtues lie confus'd,
And mixt together in so *wild* a tumult,
That the whole man is quite disfigur'd in him. *Addison.*
6. Licentious; ungoverned.
That *wild* rout that tore the Thracian bard. *Milton.*
Valour grown *wild* by pride, and pow'r by rage,
Did the true charms of majesty impair:
Rome by degrees advancing more in age,
Shew'd sad remains of what had once been fair. *Prior.*
7. Inconstant; mutable; fickle.
In the ruling passion, there alone,
The *wild* are constant, and the cunning known. *Pope.*
8. Inordinate; loose.
Other bars he lays before me,
My riots past, my *wild* societies. *Shakef.peare.*
Besides, thou art a beau; what's that my child?
A top well-drest, extravagant and *wild*:
She that cries herbs has less impertinence,
And in her callings, more of common sense. *Dryden.*
9. Uncouth; strange.
What are these,
So wither'd, and so *wild* in their attire,
That look not like th' inhabitants of the earth,
And yet are on't. *Shakef.peare's Macbeth.*
10. Done or made without any consistent order or plan.
With mountains, as with weapons, arm'd; they make
wild work in heav'n. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
The sea was very necessary to the ends of providence, and
would have been a very *wild* world had it been without.
Woodward's Natural History.
11. Meerly

WIN

11. Meerly imaginary.
As universal as these appear to be, an effectual remedy might
be applied: I am not at present upon a *wild* speculative pro-
ject, but such a one as may be easily put in execution. *Swift.*
WILD. *n. f.* [from the adjective.] A desert; a tract unculti-
vated and uninhabited.
We sometimes
Who dwell this *wild*, constrain'd by want come forth
To town or village nigh. *Milton's Paradise Regained.*
This gentle knight
Forlook his easy couch at early day,
And to the wood and *wilds* pursu'd his way. *Dryden.*
Then Libya first, of all her moisture drain'd,
Became a barren waste, a *wild* of sand. *Addison.*
Is there a nation in the *wilds* of Africa,
Amidst the barren rocks and burning sands
That does not tremble at the Roman name? *Addison.*
You rais'd these hollow'd walls; the desert smil'd,
And paradise was open'd in the *wild*. *Pope.*
WILD BASIL. *n. f.* [*acinus*, Lat.] A plant.
It hath leaves like those of the lesser basil; the cup of the
flower is oblong and furrow'd; the flowers are produced in
bunches on the top of little footstalks, which arise from be-
tween the footstalk of the leaf and the stalk of the plants in
which it differs from *serpyllum*. *Miller.*
WILD CUCUMBER. *n. f.* [*elaterium*, Latin] A plant.
The branches are somewhat like those of the cucumber, but
have no tendrils; the fruit is prickly, and when ripe bursts
with great elasticity, and abounds with fetid juice. *Miller.*
WILD OLIVE. *n. f.* [*oleagus*, Latin, from *olea*, an olive, and
lyon viter;] This plant hath leaves like those of the chaste
tree, and a fruit like an olive. *Miller.*
WILDSERVICE. *n. f.* [*crataegus*, Lat.] A plant.
The leaves are single; the flower consists of five leaves,
which expand in form of a rose. The fruit is small, and
shaped like a pear, in which are many hard seeds. *Miller.*
To **WILDER**. *v. a.* [from *wild*.] To loose or puzzle in an
unknown or pathless tract.
The little courtiers, who ne'er come to know
The depth of factions, as in mazes go,
Where interests meet, and cross so oft, that they
With too much care are *wilder'd* in the way. *Dryden.*
Oh thou! who free'st me from my doubtful state,
Long lost and *wilder'd* in the maze of fate,
Be present still. *Pope.*
WILDERNESS. *n. f.* [from *wild*.]
1. A desert; a tract of solitude and savageness.
He travell'd through wide wasteful ground,
That nought but desert *wilderness* shew'd all around. *F. Qu.*
When as the land the faw no more appear,
But a *wild wilderness* of waters deep,
Then 'gan she greatly to lament and weep. *Spenser.*
O my poor kingdom, sick with civil blows!
When that my care could not withhold thy riots,
What wilt thou do when riot is thy care?
O, thou wilt be a *wilderness* again,
Peopled with wolves, thy old inhabitants. *Shakef.peare.*
But who can always on the billows lie?
The wat'ry *wilderness* yields no supply. *Waller.*
All those animals have been obliged to change their woods
and *wildernesses* for lodgings in cities. *Arbut. & Pope.*
2. The state of being wild or disorderly. Not in use.
The paths and bow'rs, doubt not, but our joint hands
Will keep from *wilderness* with ease. *Milton.*
WILDFIRE. *n. f.* [*wild* and *fire*.] A composition of inflam-
mable materials, easy to take fire, and hard to be extin-
guish'd.
When thou rann'st up Gadhill in the night to catch my
horse, I did think thou had'st been an ignis fatuus, or a ball
of *wildfire*. *Shakef.peare.*
Though brimstone, pitch, *wildfire*, burn equally, and are
hard to quench, yet they make no such fry wind as gun-
powder. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
Yet shall it in his boiling stomach turn
To bitter poison, and like *wildfire* burn;
He shall cast up the wealth by him devour'd.
No matter in the world so proper to write with as *wildfire*,
as no characters can be more legible than those which are read
by their own light. *Addison's Guardian.*
In flames, like Semele's, be brought to bed,
While opening hell spouts *wildfire* at your head. *Pope.*
WILDOOSECHASE. *n. f.* A pursuit of something as unlikely
to be caught as the wildgoose.
If our wits run the *wildgoosechase*, I have done; for thou
hast more of the *wildgoose* in one of thy wits, than I have in
my whole five. *Shakef.peare.*
Let a man consider the time, money, and vexation, that
this *wildgoosechase* has cost him, and then say what have I
gotten to answer all this expence, but loose, giddy frolic?
L'Estrange.
WILDING. *n. f.* [*wildelinghe*, Dut.] A wild four apple.

WIN

- Ten ruddy *wildings* in the wood I found,
And stood on tip-toes, reaching from the ground. *Dryd.*
The red streak, of all cyder fruit, hath obtained the pre-
ference, being but a kind of *wilding*, never pleasing to the
palate. *Mortimer.*
The *wilding's* fibres are contriv'd
To draw th' earth's purest spirit, and resist
Its feculence. *Phillips.*
WILDLY. *adv.* [from *wild*.]
1. Without cultivation.
That which grows *wildly* of itself, is worth nothing. *More.*
2. With disorder; with perturbation or distraction.
Put your discourse into some frame, and start not so *wildly*
from my affair. *Shakef.peare.*
Mrs. Page, at the door, sweating, blowing, and looking
wildly, would needs speak with you. *Shakef.peare.*
Young mothers *wildly* stare with fear oppress'd,
And strain their helpless infants to their breast. *Dryden.*
His fever being come to a height, he grew delirious, and
talked very *wildly*. *Female Quixote.*
3. Without attention; without judgment.
As th' unthought accident is guilty
Of what we *wildly* do, so we profess
Ourselves to be the slaves of chance, and flies
Of every wind that blows. *Shakef.peare.*
4. Irregularly.
She, *wildly* wanton, wears by night away
The sign of all our labours done by day. *Dryden.*
WILINESS. *n. f.* [from *wild*.]
1. Rudeness; disorder like that of uncultivated ground.
The heath, which was the third part of our plot, I wish to
be framed, as much as may be, to a natural *wiliness*. *Bac.*
2. Inordinate vivacity; irregularity of manners.
This fame starved justice hath done nothing but prated to
me of the *wiliness* of his youth, and the feats he hath done
about Turnbal street; and every third word a lie. *Shakef.peare.*
He is giv'n
To sports, to *wiliness*, and much company. *Shakef.peare.*
3. Savageness; brutality.
He came in like a wild man; but such a *wiliness* as shew'd
his eye-sight had tamed him, full of withered leaves; which
though they fell not, still threatened falling. *Sidney.*
Vainly thou tell'st me, what the woman's care
Shall in the *wiliness* of the wood prepare. *Prior.*
4. Uncultivated state.
Their *wiliness* lose, and quitting nature's part,
Obey the rules and discipline of art. *Dryden.*
5. Deviation from a settled course; irregularity.
A delirium is but a short *wiliness* of the imagination; and
a settled irregularity of fancy is distraction and madness. *Watts's Log.*
6. Alienation of mind.
Ophelia, I wish
That your good beauties be the happy cause
Of Hamlet's *wiliness*; so shall I hope your virtues
May bring him to his wonted way again. *Shakef.peare.*
WILE. *n. f.* [pile, Saxon; *wiel*, Islandick.] A deceit; a
fraud; a trick; a stratagem; a practice artful, sly, and infi-
dious.
Their leader by his *wiles* had much obtain'd,
And done much mischief on the English state. *Daniel.*
My sentence is for open war; of *wiles*
More unexpert, I boast not; them let those
Contrive who need. *Milton.*
Life essay'd the surest *wile*,
Gilding itself with Laura's smile. *Roscommon.*
So Sforza, curs'd with a too fertile brain,
Lost by his *wiles* the pow'r his wit did gain. *Dryd.*
The heart of man is so full of *wiles*, artifices, and deceit,
that there is no guessing at what he is from his speeches.
Addison's Guardian.
Wisdom's above suspecting *wiles*,
The queen of learning gravely smiles. *Swift.*
WILFUL. *adj.* [*will* and *ful*.]
1. Stubborn; contumacious; perverse; inflexible.
2. Done or suffered by design.
Sthenobæa herself did choak
With *wilful* cord, for wanting of her will. *Fairy Queen.*
Thou to me
Art all things under heav'n, all places thou,
Who for my *wilful* crime art banish'd hence. *Milton.*
The silent stranger stood amaz'd to see
Contempt of wealth, and *wilful* poverty. *Dryden.*
WILFULLY. *adv.* [from *wilful*.]
1. Obstinate; stubbornly.
The mother, who being determinately, least I should say
of a great lady *wilfully*, bent to marry her to Demagoras,
tried all ways which a witty and hard-hearted mother could
devise. *Sidney.*
Evil could she conceal her fire, and *wilfully* perlevered
she in it. *Sidney.*